Claims

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A method for sampling a fluid produced from a wellbore, the method comprising providing a vehicle having a drive means for moving the vehicle, a collecting device for collecting a sample of fluid and a storage facility for the collected fluid; using the collecting device to recover a sample of the fluid to the vehicle's storage facility at a first location on a subsea structure; storing the sample in the storage facility of the vehicle; and carrying the sample in the vehicle's storage facility to a second location.

2 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first location is a wellhead.

 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first position typically has a collection port to mate with the collecting device, and the method includes the step of engaging the collecting device with the collection port at the first location, and transferring the fluid through the collection port and collecting device while they are engaged.

4 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vehicle is a remotely operated vehicle.

A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the storage tank and collecting device are housed on a frame.

30 attached to the vehicle.

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A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collecting device comprises at least one sample container for containing the sample collected, and the method includes the further step of storing the sample collected in the sample container.

7 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a probe for connecting to the subsea structure at the first position and the method includes the step of connecting the vehicle to the subsea structure via the probe and collecting the sample through the probe.

8 A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of discarding a portion of the fluid collected.

9 A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of detaching the vehicle from the subsea structure at the first position, removing the sample when the vehicle has moved to the second position, and analysing the sample at the second position.

 10 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collecting device has several separate sample containers for collecting samples, and the method includes the step of collecting a further sample from at least one other subsea structure before the vehicle moves to the second location for analysis of the samples.

31 11 A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device 32 can be controlled from a position remote from the first



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position, and the method includes the step of controlling the device remotely.

A sampling device for collecting samples of fluid produced from a subsea wellbore, the sampling device having a drive means for moving the sampling device, a collecting device for collecting a sample of fluid and a storage container for holding the collected fluid.

A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the wellbore has a wellhead and the collecting device comprises a probe for engaging a port on the wellhead.

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A sampling device as claimed in claim 12 wherein 14 the drive means comprises a remotely operated vehicle.

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A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein 17 the storage container comprises at least one bottle, 18 the said at least one bottle having a having a piston 19 movable within the bottle. 20

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A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, having means to indicate characteristics of the sample collected, the characteristics being selected from the group consisting of pressure, volume and temperature.

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> A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein 17 27 the device is adapted to collect the fluid sample from 28 a subsea fluid-carrying structure selected from the 29 group consisting of wellheads, manifolds, pipelines, 30 wellbores, casings, tubulars, storage tanks and gravity 31 base structures.

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A sampling device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the indicator means is configured to indicate the selected characteristics on a continuous basis.

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A sampling device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the storage container has a fail safe valve to seal the container in the event of a power failure.